

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME IX No. 1

WINTER 1979

Quarterly

Dedication

This issue follows the format of the Costa Mesa Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 11, No. 1, Page 1 (RHS Archives) as a gesture of kinship with a publication that found large space for Rutland in its very first issue. We salute the vibrant Costa Mesa that has just completed its first quarter-century of spectacular growth. We share, in our small way, the quadracentennial (that's right — 400 years) of Sir Francis Drake's monumental voyage to California. We recognize the western heritage that goes even deeper. Most of all, we document the privilege of a special relationship with distant Americans, who have helped bridge that gap, who have come to us and received us in friendship.

Brief History Quiz

Early California-Vermont Connection

1. Question: Who was the editor of the first newspaper published in California?

Answer: Walter Colton of Rutland, VT

2. Question: What newspaper made the first public announcement of the discovery of gold on the Pacific coast?

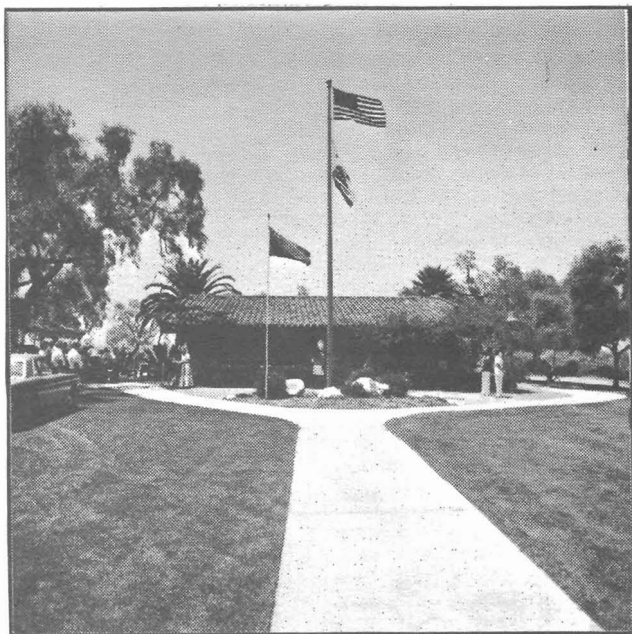
Answer: Walter Colton's "North American."

3. Question: Who built the first schoolhouse in California?

Answer: Walter Colton of Rutland, VT

4. Question: What is the name of the Hall in which California's first Constitution was written?

Answer: You're right: It is Walter Colton Hall.



Of the three flags flaunting their colors over Costa Mesa, California, two invite special comment: Under "Old Glory" is the flag known in parts of the east coast as "The Bennington Battle Flag." Considering the size of the original on display at Bennington, Vermont, one would think it too cumbersome to have been carried in the actual battle at Walloomsic, New York. A more plausible explanation is that it hung over the bountiful stores the British sought at Bennington. During our nation's recent Bicentennial celebration, many Americans were led to believe that the white "76" in its blue field was designed for that occasion. But the Californians, in the picture above, know the history of that flag; we believe it was hoisted in 1978 as a gesture of friendship for Vermont.

There is no doubt about the cordiality in raising the green, white and blue flag that flies so proudly on the separate pole. This gift from the Rutland Historical Society is documented elsewhere in this issue. Generally known in our area as "The Green Mountain Boy Flag", the opinion of a recent speaker at a RHS meeting and documents in RHS Archives would suggest that this flag could be more properly called "The Stark Flag." Furthermore, there is greater likelihood that this flag did fly at the Battle of Bennington than the very large one that bears the name.

Editorial

A reader might question why this publication of an eastern historical society is devoted to the historical society of a city on the Pacific ocean. It could be said that our own area is so steeped in history that we could find all kinds of our own subjects for discussion without reaching three thousand miles across the continent to a city that is only twenty six years old. But that is the very reason for this acceptance of the longstretched hand of friendship that has been offered across our nation in so many gracious ways. During our nation's celebration in 1976, many flags bore the white 76 on a blue field and the other distinguishing marks of the Bennington Battle Flag. Asked to identify the flag, many Californians replied, with pride, "That's our country's bicentennial flag! See the 76?". Yes, this is provincial ignorance. But it is greatly offset by their pride in being part of our nation's celebration — even though thirteen stars in that same flag make it very clear that California was not one of the "The Originals". But, even larger in the balance, there is the fact that California has its own long and fascinating history that is little known or appreciated by provincial easterners. In an effort to bridge this gap, one issue of the Costa Mesa Bicentennial Gazette split its front page between stories about two simultaneous historical reenactments: The southwestern "Expedition of Juan Bautista Anza" and "The Arduous Trek of Henry Knox" in the northeast. Indeed, in another Costa Mesa Gazette issue, a front page story carried the banner, "Sister City Celebrates". And that well written story about Rutland was factual and accurate.

(Continued on page 6)



When Vice President of Costa Mesa Historical Society Joan Morrow — accompanied by her husband, Doug, and son Arthur — visited the Rutland Historical Society, a pot-luck reception was held at the home of Chairman and Mrs. Archibald Todd, after presentation of metate (See other stories and pictures in this issue) at City Hall. In the picture taken by Joan, Doug Morrow has his knees in the left corner while son Arthur is partly in the opposite corner. The tendency of these two — to take opposite corners in pictures — is illustrated elsewhere in this issue.



Pictured above as the Californians departed for home are the following: Kenneth and Nancy Fisher, Tom Egan, Louise Adams, Archibald and Beryl Todd and Eleanor Elwert. These pictures were taken in a season when Vermont's floral beauty is most like that of southern California.

The Rutland California Company

A Mayflower Type Compact

Here is an interesting excerpt (RHS Archives) from a Vermont Historical Society publication:

One of the most significant factors in Vermont's social and economic history has always been the migration of her sons to other parts of the United States. There were times when the emigration assumed the proportions of a mass exodus. 1849 was one such year.

Through the courtesy of its owner, Mrs. Charles C. Ward of South Pasadena, Calif., we are able to print the Constitution and By-Laws of the Rutland California Company, formed for the purpose of getting a group of Vermonters from Rutland to San Francisco in good order. It is interesting that, like the men who came in the Mayflower, they found a "compact" desirable to govern their group travels.

The notes which follow regarding some of the men in the company are furnished by, Mrs. Ward. *Editor*

PREAMBLE — Believing that it would be to our advantage to associate ourselves together and have a regular organization and government, for the purpose of traveling from Rutland, Vt. by way of Mexico to San Francisco and the Gold Region of California we the subscribers do therefore form a company under the following constitution by which we agree to be governed under the pains, & penalties set forth in said constitution and the By Laws hereafter enacted.—

1. This company shall be called the Rutland California Company.
2. The officers of the Company shall consist of a President, Captain, Three Directors, and a Clerk
3. The President shall be chief of all civil affairs & preside at all meetings when he is present.
4. The Captain shall be chief in all matters pertaining to the defense of the company and act for the President in his absence.
5. The six officers of the Company shall be a "Board of Management" of which the President shall be chairman, and nothing pertaining to the company shall be done without the sanction of a least four of the board.
6. The Directors shall have the expending of the money expended for the Company — make all purchases and draw on the individual members of the company for their share of the expenses, — keep correct accounts of their expenditures & return correct copies to the clerk to be recorded.
7. The Clerk is to keep full records of all matters necessary to be recorded — & keep a correct account of all expenses & his Books to be open to the inspection of any of the company at any time.
8. Each officer shall hold his office till he resigns or is voted out of office by a majority of the Company.
9. In all votes the majority must be at least a majority of the whole company.
10. No one can be discharged from the company unless two thirds of those present agree thereto.
11. No one can become a member of the company unless two thirds of those present agree thereto.
12. The Board may call meeting at such time & place as they see fit — and anything done at a meeting not so called shall be illegal.
13. The sick shall be under the care & direction of the Board & no one shall be left behind unless at his own request and with the concurrence of the Company.
14. If any one of the Company dies he shall be properly buried and his grave marked, and his money & effect faithfully preserved for his heirs.
15. The company may make, alter and amend such By Laws as they may see fit in accordance with this constitution.

In witness of our agreement to be governed as heretofore expressed were hereunto set our hands this 27th day of February 1849. —

J. C. Dexter
Samuel McConnell
T. O. Tower
G. M. Goodrich
Moses Curtis
Daniel E. Harlow
E. C. Bogardus
Robert Hopkins

John Brill
John Gilman
Tho. C. McConnell
W. H. Gould
Stearns Lawrence
Joseph Martin
Horace Hayward
R. C. Hunter
S. C. Millington



Displaying the gift from our Rutland Historical Society, the following stand between their Vermont Visitors: Norma Hertzgog, Mayor of Costa Mesa during exchange of greetings and Proclamations with Rutland Mayor Gilbert G. Godnick — currently member of City Council; Dr. Robert Moore, President of Orange Coast College — see story elsewhere in this issue; Ed Miller, author of *A Slice of Orange: The History of Costa Mesa* (RHS Archives); Lucy Pinkley, Director, CMHS; Henry Panian, Professor, OCC; Joyce Martin, President, CMHS; Don Bull, Chairman, CM Bicentennial Committee.



Costa Mesa Historical Society Vice President Joan Morrow (left) and President Joyce Martin pose with Vermonter, Peg Egan, beside adobe bricks of CMHS building, The Estancia.



President Joyce Martin (black belt — incongruous description for this gentle lady) President of Costa Mesa Historical Society, is surrounded by some of the many Californians who attended a Pot Luck Supper to welcome their Vermont guests. In the shadow on the left is Arthur Morrow who took the photo in Rutland Council Chambers. Shadow on the right hides Doug Morrow who hand-carried the Costa Mesa Metate to Rutland.

Hospitality California Style

Costa Mesa Historical
Society Hosts
Rutland Visitors

Here is an extract from a letter written by Professor Panian: "This note will be the last probably before you leave Rutland. Believe that we'll have everything ready by the time you arrive. May your trip be safe and all that you want it to be — and more!! As matters stand, we'll pick you up at an airport, probably The Orange County airport — if you get an Air California plane from S.F. that will be Sunday. On Monday, we want you to see the College with a lunch at our famous Captain's Table. (Editor's Note: See related story elsewhere in this issue.) In the evening we are working on a presentation at the City Council. (See another related story — Editor). We will see what works out. On Tuesday, how about Disneyland with the Morrows? Tuesday evening, we plant a potluck at The College Faculty House: Apparently, Joan Morrow was so impressed with the potluck last year in Rutland. (See another related story — Editor). We will then see you next on Friday. Friday will be San Juan Capistrano Mission with the hope of Calvary Chapel. Then sadly you depart on Saturday."

Editor's Note: Above are just highlights of an outpouring of affection by many proud Americans.

What Is OCC In California

Orange Coast College (Never heard of it!) is in our Sister City, Costa Mesa. An astonishing statistic for our area's 20-30,000 population is the student enrollment at OCC: 36,000. Yes, that is correct; 36,000 students! At the reception in honor of the representatives of our Rutland Historical Society, the president of OCC, Dr. Robert Moore was a most cordial greeter.

The Southern California Metate

Our Prized Possession

What is a metate? Since it has great historic value — and Rutland Historical Society has a very good one — and it may be the only one east of California — some information about our metate seems to be in order.

A metate is the under stone used to grind meal. It is the mortar stone in the mortar-pestle action.

The metate is unique because it was used, centuries ago, by the only Indians known to have ground acorns for meal. This raises an interesting question about the trees that were in profusion in different areas in those days and why Indians ate only southern California acorns.

The Valiant Morrows Of California

Our Gallant Visitors

After Doug and Joan Morrow (and son Arthur) agreed to bring the CMHS metate from California to Vermont, there were complications: First, it is too big and heavy to fit inside a suitcase; for many reasons, it couldn't be handled like a separate piece of luggage either. The Morrows had no choice; the rock had to be hand-carried. As Vice President of the Costa Mesa Historical Society making the gift, Joan could have been responsible for that burden. But diminutive Joan isn't much bigger than the stone. Son Arthur might have taken a turn at carrying (perhaps he did) but he carried the camera. So, like many husbands in such situations, it was Doug who lugged the stone to Rutland. Along the way, it picked up a name — Henry — perhaps because of Henry Panian's part in the venture. Because Doug's sense of humor equals his good nature, he had a ready answer every time the family's hand-carried items were inspected at the airlines boarding gates. At each x-ray point, Doug said, "We're going to a 'Pet Rock Collectors Convention.'" And the valiant Morrows marched right through — all the way to Rutland.



Metate is presented to Rutland Historical Society Chairman Archibald Todd by Costa Mesa Historical Vice President Joan Morrow. Looking on (l-r) are Rutland Mayor Gilbert G. Godnick, Tom Egan and Doug Morrow.



Professor Henry Panian holds metate before it leaves museum in California for its journey to the east.

Rutland's metate was found at the site of Estancia Adobe, which is now the home of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, and was a cherished display item. It was brought to the Rutland Historical Society during Vermont's bicentennial to be part of our Quartermillennium project.

Exchange Ceremony In California

Vermonters' Timely Remarks

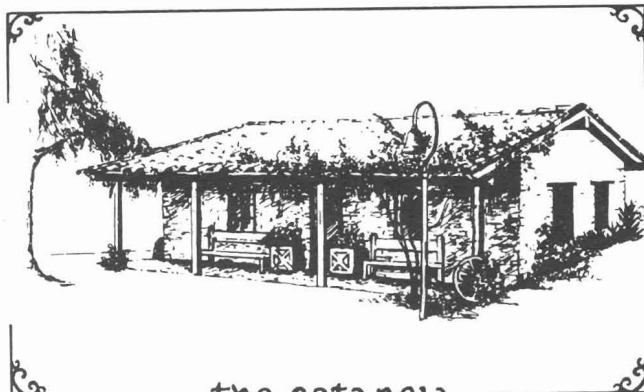
The Costa Mesa City Council meeting was the occasion of a warm exchange of friendly gestures with representatives from Rutland. Escorted to the meeting by the officers of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, the Vermonter was brought to the podium to accept greetings and several gifts from the Mayor. Several gifts were presented to our California Sister City and a letter and papers from the Rutland Herald, in honor of Rutlander Walter Colton who published California's first newspaper, were accepted by a representative of the press corps present. A short speech by the Vermonter, complimenting the 25 year old city for foresight in giving assistance to an Historical Society at the very beginning of the City's life, was followed by a City Council vote in favor of a substantial amount for the society.

Editorial

(Continued from page 2)

During the past three years, Costa Mesa and Rutland have had a meaningful exchange of visitors bearing official proclamations, books on the histories of both cities, and the *Quarterlies* of our historical societies. Just as a unique Vermont flag is given an honored place in California, we now prepare an honored permanent place for their cherished metate.

We believe our members will enjoy these highlights of our wholesome association and the invitation to more information available in our archives.



the estancia

Estancia of Costa Mesa, California

Adobe Home in the West

Our members, familiar with our own Historical Society building on Center Street — the various uses it served in the past — will be interested in the background of the home of our "California connection." This well preserved building — now known as The Estancia — began as an Indian station of the San Juan Capistrano Mission which lies eighteen miles to the south of it. Later, it became the home of Don Diego Sepulveda who had been the alcade (Judge/Mayor) of the Pueblo of Los Angeles. This change is evident today by the smaller adobe bricks that were added to the old. From the Sepulveda family it passed through several owners (including an Adams family), was an American Legion Post after World War 1, was given by a Segerstrom family to the City in 1963. Today, it is maintained by the Costa Mesa Historical Society as the centerpiece of a beautifully landscaped area. At the front, on special occasions, flies the green, white and blue Green Mountain Boy/Stark flag that was given in friendship by the Rutland Historical Society.

PICTURE CREDITS

Page 1 — Bob Wolf

Page 2 — Joan Morrow

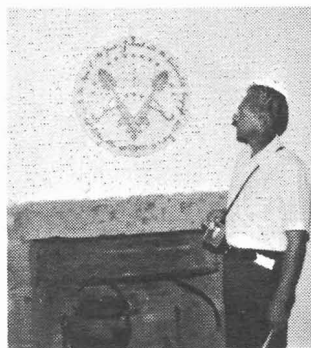
Page 4 — Tom Egan

Page 5 — Group in Rutland
City Hall by Arthur
Morrow

Page 5 — Panian with
Metate sent by Costa
Mesa Historical
Photographer unknown

Page 6 — Tom Egan

Page 6 — Sketch of Estancia by Patricia Miller from social note paper sold by Costa Mesa Historical Society



Marble placque, gift from Rutland Historical Society, is admired by Professor Panian of California while visiting the Vermont Room at Fort Ticonderoga, N. Y.

LaFayette's Tomb In Paris

Interesting Information

Every American school child is familiar with the enormous contribution given to our Revolution by the Frenchman, the Marquis de La Fayette. And every tourist to New York City must visit Grant's Tomb where lies our Civil War General, later President. Because of these facts, wouldn't the average American expect to find, in Paris, a similar resting place for La Fayette? Not so!

When Professor Panian set out for La Fayette's tomb loaded down with the wreath that would be presented from Costa Mesa and Rutland, the Parisian representative of the French government didn't know where to take him. Nor did the taxi drivers have any more information. It was only after the kind of research an historian is familiar with that the Panian family and their French guide found their way to the site.

The following is an extract from an exquisitely handwritten letter (RHS Archives) from the French lady who accompanied the Panians "... I had ignored the existence of the 'Cimetiere de Picpus' where is the tomb of the Marquis de La Fayette, and it was an opportunity of learning something new about our own history. It is a quiet private cemetery at the back of the garden of a convent. Nobody walking along the street can guess that there is a cemetery there.

The cemetery itself is surrounded with high walls. The door is locked, and only the gardener has a key. There are two parts at the back, closed by a wall with a fence, a sort of garden divided into two large rectangles of ground covered with pebbles, and a small edge of box (tree) runs along the sides of them. Those rectangles are what we call 'fosses communes' (common graves);

there, the people of nobility beheaded in 1794 were thrown together: 1304 of them. In the other part of the cemetery are only the graves of scions of those noble families. All of them very simple: only a slab with the names of the families. The tomb of the Marquis de La Fayette is a big one: four places, where were buried the Marquis himself, his wife, his son and ... I don't remember who else. The sheaf of flowers had been delivered in the morning, and we had just to go and collect ourselves in front of the tomb. That cemetery, ignored by most of people, has however been mentioned by Victor Hugo in a chapter of his big novel 'Les Miserables.' On behalf of my compatriots, thank you again. I send you all our best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of your country, hoping that there will be more and more friendliness between our two peoples.

Sincerely,
Edmonde Corroyer"

Unique Flag In California

Vermont Green in Costa Mesa

Few flags have the history to equal the Green Mountain Boy flag (Perhaps more properly called "The Stark Flag" — see future issue of RHSQ) that is now in Costa Mesa. It was carried by groups of high school students as each took a day pulling a cannon 120 miles across Vermont. At one point, a photo was taken of three teenagers struggling against a wind that almost snapped its pole.

Extract from a letter to the Costa Mesa Historical Society describes it as follows:

"The representatives of our society bring another token of our esteem —

Because it has such a unique history of its own, the Green Mountain Boy Flag, to be presented to you, has been a treasured item of our collection.

It was the only Green Mountain Boy Flag that was passed along from one group of high school students to the next as they demonstrated the following:

"Hypotenuse to History Project of Vermont High School Students reminds us that The Green Mountain Boys Captured the Cannons Our First President used in 1776 to Break the Siege of Boston (Signed) Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States, The White House, November 1975."

This flag was at Fort Ticonderoga on 10 December 1975 at the start of reenactment of the movement of those cannons to General Washington in Cambridge. This flag was in Cambridge on 27 January 1976 at the end of the long journey.

This is the flag in the photograph on pages 48-49 of *The Noble Train of Artillery*, a book presented in Boston to Henry Panian and Tom Egan by Susan E. Schruth, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission in a ceremony that honored California and Vermont in 1976.

It is our belief that, in presenting this Green Mountain Boy Flag to you, we do not part with it; rather, it moves from our room in the east to the room of our sister society on the west coast. And we know you will raise it high, in Costa Mesa on 10 May 2025, the 250th Anniversary of the Capture of Ticonderoga, during our nation's Quarter-Millennium.

Given in friendship,
/s/ Archibald J. Todd,
Chairman
Board of Directors
/s/ Robert Edward West,
Esq., President
Rutland Historical
Society

10 March 1978

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
101 CENTER STREET, RUTLAND, VERMONT**

The Society publishes the *Quarterly* for its members with the aim of preserving and studying the history of the Rutland community, which is comprised of the Towns of Rutland, Proctor and West Rutland and the City of Rutland. The Society maintains and operates a museum at 101 Center Street, Rutland, in the former Bank of Rutland building (built in 1825), now owned by the City of Rutland and leased to the Society at no charge.

Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of dues to the Assistant Treasurer —
John Diodati, 16 Cottage Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701

Dues are \$3.00 per year for regular members; for those wishing to give the Society further support, a contributing membership is \$10.00; a business membership is \$25.00; a sustaining membership is \$100.00; and a life membership (one payment only) is \$75.00.

All members receive as part of their membership four issues of the *Quarterly*. The expiration date of each membership is listed on the mailing label of the publication. Members wishing to pay two or more years dues in advance are encouraged to do so to reduce costs.

Gifts or bequests of money or articles of local historical interest are welcome at all times and are deductible for income tax purposes.

*Editor: Tom Egan
Managing Editor: Jean C. Ross*

**RUTLAND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
101 Center St.
Rutland, Vt.
05701**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID Rutland, Vermont Permit No. 12

*The number or letter on the address label indicates your dues status:
78 one year in arrears 79 current L life membership*